



The Cobblestoner

"A little journal published erratically by the Cobblestone Society bespeaking pertinent projects and events"

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A sampling of arts and textiles to be displayed for Mother's Day

Beginning on Mother's Day with the opening of the Cobblestone Museum, a new exhibit will be featured for the 2017 season. This will be entitled, "Sunday Painters of Yesterday," including around fifty works of art. The exhibit will be curated by Bill Lattin using paintings from his own collection plus many from long-time collector René Schasel. A couple of paintings from the museum's archives will also come to light.

The term "Sunday Painter" was used back in the 19th century to describe people who have no formal training in art and who liked to paint just for fun. Such a person would often paint on a Sunday as a pastime when not engaged in their normal line of work.

Such untrained artists do work which is sometime seen as primitive or amateurish. However, these paintings often have a great deal of charming folk art quality. The paintings in our exhibit show what local "Sunday Painters" were turning out during the last third of the 19th century and first decade of the 20th century.

Oddly, there have been some very famous "Sunday Painters," such as Edward Hicks (1780-1849) known for "The Peaceable Kingdom," Henri Rousseau (1844-1910) the

French painter known for his jungle scenes and of course, "Grandma" Moses (1860-1961) who is remembered for her many New England primitive landscapes.

In addition to the "Sunday Painters" exhibit, museum volunteers are creating a display of the Museum's historic quilts and coverlets. Also, the Cobblestone Buildings will be open for tours. See website for regular admission pricing, but on Mother's Day, of course, moms are free!

On June 2nd the Museum will hold a "First Friday" art event with a reception from 6pm-8pm at the Cobblestone Church to officially open our new art exhibit. Bill Lattin will give a brief talk around 7pm on the art works displayed. This will also be an opportunity to meet new Museum Director, Doug Farley, who will have a few words to say about our vision for a bright future. The art exhibit will continue throughout the 2017 season.

One final note on art, on Sunday afternoon, July 23, local artist Pat Greene from Medina will teach a fun course on painting. Participants will leave with a painting of their own creation. More details, cost and information concerning limited reservations will be forthcoming.

Doug Farley is the new Director



It's my pleasure to edit my first edition of *The Cobblestoner*. I am excited to join such a great group of people working to preserve and protect our collective cobblestone history in Orleans County and beyond.

To fill you in a little about me, I got bitten by the "history bug" as a young adult. I never really connected to history in school, and felt it was just places and dates. It wasn't until I got older that I really started to connect history to

people. As a young adult, I took an interest in a family heirloom, A Civil War sword, that no one really knew much about, so I went on a quest to get the backstory behind the artifact. This search led me on a trip through time that brought the story of the Civil War to life for me, and connected me to one of my great-great grandfathers, who was a musician during the War Between the States. History was no longer just statistics, it was about actual people who had an influence on my family and also my country! The next step involved finding out more about the rest of my family tree and understanding that the person I am today is a direct result of the trials and struggles of hundreds of ancestors who came before me.

I want to share some information on my career path. My first career was in retail, spending a large portion of my life as a supermarket owner. During those years, my passion for history continued to grow and I became involved with the Niagara County Historical Society on their board of directors. Feeling that 35 years in retail was a successful "first" career, I sold my business and offered up my services to the Historical Society in their endeavor to save an 1840s stone church near the top of the Flight of Five locks in Lockport. They hired me for planning and I served as their first director, a position I held for almost a decade. I next worked about five years in museum management with People Inc. as director of the Museum of disABILITY History in Buffalo.

If you do the math, you can probably see that I reached the Social Security milestone recently. I decided to see if the government would send me checks which was always rumored. I was pleasantly surprised when the first check arrived, about the same time I came upon the part-time opportunity with the Cobblestone Society. The rest, as they say, is about to become history.

Thanks again for the opportunity to join your team! Stop by and say hello. I am looking forward to your visit!

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Volunteer Coordinator: Sue Bonafini

Maintenance: Bob Albanese

Cookies & Coloring with Cobble!



Trustee Grace Kent and "Cobble"

A standing room only gathering of about 200 kids and family members from Albion Elementary School were treated to a special evening on April 5th in the library. The Cobblestone Museum's very own mascot, Cobble the Mouse, visited with students and had cookies with them as they

learned about the Cobblestone Museum from Trustee Grace Kent. Students also met Cobble's talented illustrator, Patricia Blackburn, who shared her vision for Cobble and then drew a sketch of him for the awed students. The sketch will be framed and hung in the library to remind students of Cobble's visit.

Acting librarian Wendy O'Hearn hosted the event, and students received coloring books to take home and enjoy compliments of Cobblestone trustee Toni Plummer. The endearing book was the brainchild of co-creators Georgia Thomas and Patricia Blackburn.

Attendees were reminded to come and visit the museum starting Mother's Day, May 14th. Coloring books may be purchased online or at the Museum's gift shop for a \$7 donation. The book is suitable for all ages. All proceeds benefit the Cobblestone Museum.



Smile.amazon.com is a simple and automatic way to support your favorite charitable organization, at NO cost to you, every time you shop. Simply go to site Smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer and pick Cobblestone Society as your charity. You may bookmark Smile.amazon.com for quicker access.

The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items. For more information and details, go to:

smile.amazon.com

Work On Cobblestone Church and Ward House Begins



If you drive by the Cobblestone Museum Complex this spring you may notice several projects in progress around the Ward House and the Cobblestone Church. The projects are made possible through a \$23,200 Vitality Grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation.

The Ward House will be adorned with new handmade front steps that will once again make the front entrance functional. The old steps have already been removed and repair work to the front wall is currently taking place. Also in the works, we are repointing and repairing of cobblestones around the building, and improving drainage to reduce moisture infiltration and masonry deterioration.

The Cobblestone Church windows and damaged windowsills will be repaired and re-glazed as well as painted. The soffits, gable and bell tower will be given a fresh coat of paint. Repair masonry work has already begun to the damaged front terrace wall.

All of these improvements will enhance the appearance and functionality of our buildings and significantly extend the lives of two buildings that are part of our National Historic Landmark District.

Stay up-to-date with the latest news and happenings at the Cobblestone Society by "Liking" us on Facebook. Be sure to hit "Share" on our daily postings. This word-of-mouth advertising is priceless! Thank you for your support in this way!



Many thanks to our new and renewing members from January—April 2017.

Corporate

David Mitchell—
Christopher Mitchell
Funeral Home

Mark Tillman—Tillman's
Village Inn

Patron

Doug & Lois Farley
David & Kathy Kast
Thomas & Patricia Noon
Bruce Rex

Family

Erin Anheier & Russ Bosch
Doug & Linda Beech
Jim & Sue Bonafini
Mark & Karen Bower
Bob & Lyn Blackburn
LeRoy & Shirley Bright-
Neeper
John & Grace Denniston
Ken DeRoller
Mendal & Alberta Dick
Ronald Findlay
Doug & Elizabeth Freier
Harriet Greaser
John & Sandy Heise
Gwen & Chuck Hughson
Leslie & Rita Hunter
Michael & Susan Jessmer
(Jessmer Masonry)
Richard & Suzanne
Machamer
Jerome & Susan
McNamara
R. Todd Monroe

Gerard & Patricia Morrisey
Kim & Neal Muscarella

Individuals

Dr. Joseph Bencloski
Jean Benson
Sandra Brown
Elsie Davy
Brian Daddis
Diana Dudley
Sheri Egeli
Collette Frysz
Francis Gallagher
Nyla Gaylord
James Harold
Melissa Ierland
Ashley King
Frank Kowsky
Linda Kozubal
Michael Miano
Anna Murray
Gloria Neilans
Richard Palmer
Suzanne Pilon
Pauline Radzinski
Frederick Schneider
Anton Schwarzmuller

Life Members Making Additional Contributions

Grace Kent
Charles & Kim Nesbitt
Bruce Rex
Shirley & Bob Rheinwald



Sue Bonafini attends Batavia Bridal Show

Bridal Show Presence

By Susan Bonafini, Volunteer Coordinator

Local brides-to-be, their attendants, fiancés and even their parents attend bridal shows. One of my roles is to assist bridal couples with weddings held at the Museum's 1834 Cobblestone Church. Therefore this winter, with the help of Trustees Toni Plummer and Sue Starkweather-Miller, I attended two local bridal shows to promote the Cobblestone Church as a unique wedding venue for couples to consider.

Although bridal shows have been in vogue for decades, some local events have gained popularity in recent years. February marked the 4th Annual Niagara-Orleans Bridal Show in Gasport, sponsored by the Terry's Corners Volunteer Fire Co. Auxiliary. More than 250 attended. In January, over 300 attended the 6th Annual Batavia Bridal Show held at Terry Hills Country Club.

The opportunity to connect with visitors at these events is a step toward creating awareness that the Cobblestone Church is available for ceremonies, whether a judge or celebrant of any faith will preside at the service. Plenty of photos were available for the public to review, and it was a chance to share information about the Museum complex, in general.

Save-the-Date: Wednesday, June 14
An Evening with the Cobblestone Society
Celebrating our Cobblestone Heritage
Music & Refreshments at the Orleans Chapter DAR

Thank You!

Special thanks to many friends who have made donations to the Cobblestone Society in 2017. Many people kindly donated materials, finances, in-kind services, artifacts or archival items to help the Society continue to grow. *(We apologize in advance if we have left anyone off the list. Please let us know so we can correct this oversight.)*

- Lawrence & Gabriella Albanese
- James A. Bonafini Consultants
- Mark Christopher, Dream Speaker Antiques & Robin Stelmach, Americana Unlimited Antiques
- Cobblestone Church, Middleport, NY
- Brian Daddis Masonry
- Colette Frysz
- Gregory Gribben
- Gary & Grace Kent
- Harriet W. Leister
- Nathan & Gail Lyman
- Sue Starkweather-Miller
- Pat Morrisey
- Janice Mosher
- Nancy Muirhead
- Charles Nesbitt
- Orleans County Legislature
- Diane & Keith Palmer
- Suzanne Pilon
- Toni Plummer
- Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Sack
- Robert Stirk
- Georgia Thomas & Joycelyn Jennings (in memory of former Trustee Paul Archer)
- Erica Wanecski



Jim Bonafini and Cliff Grant from the Middleport Universalist Church

From the President

By Jim Bonafini

This year began with a surprise donation of \$11,366.97 from the Middleport Universalist Church sale. Its congregation kindly considered us for receipt of these funds. I would guess that the decision of how to distribute the proceeds was not an easy one. The fact that The Cobblestone Society was included on the privileged list of recipients was an honor and a testament to their confidence in our organization. Their generous donation will provide additional funding needed for our operations and buildings preservation.

As we approach our opening day, Mother's Day, The Cobblestone Society & Museum is experiencing revitalization through its new Director, Doug Farley. With many years of experience, Doug is already having an impact in many areas.

I continue my own contributions to The Cobblestone Society as its newly elected President. I started volunteering in 2015 and in 2016 became its Treasurer. I serve as Chair pro tem of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, a member of various Board committees and a Museum volunteer. One volunteer duty that *I find* particularly enjoyable is ringing the church bell at weddings. Our members and volunteers are extremely important and I hope that you will join me in supporting our organization in your own way.

2017 Cobblestone Event Schedule

Museum Opening Weekend: Historic Quilt & Coverlet display -Sunday , May 14, 1-5 pm

Join us for our season opening event on Mother's Day when all moms visit for free and receive a flower! Enjoy a display of the museum's collection of antique quilts and coverlets in our historic Cobblestone Church. All Cobblestone buildings will be open for tours and you will get a preview of the "Sunday Painters of Yesteryear" art exhibit, which will officially open in June. Regular admission applies (except moms are free!) and remember, kids are free with accompanying adults throughout 2017.

First Friday : "Sunday Painters of Yesteryear" Art Exhibit and "Meet the Director"-Friday, June 2 , 6-8 pm

Come on out for a First Friday art exhibit featuring 19th c. paintings by amateur or "naïve" painters. Museum Curator Bill Lattin will provide a brief talk on the history of this Victorian era pastime at 7 pm. This will also be an opportunity for our community to welcome the Cobblestone Museum's new director, Doug Farley!

An Evening with the Cobblestone Society-Celebrating Our Cobblestone Heritage-Wednesday, June 14

Join us at the Orleans Chapter DAR to learn more about the Society's vision for a bright future. Music & Refreshments.

Summer Solstice Soiree-Wednesday, June 21, 4-10 pm

Members and their guests are invited to a garden party hosted by LeRoy & Shirley Bright-Neepor to benefit the Cobblestone Museum. Planned events include garden tours, artists and their works, music, wine, and light refreshments (recommended donation \$10). All donations benefit the Cobblestone Museum. Rain date to be announced. Come and celebrate mid-summer eve!

Patriotic Service at the Cobblestone Church-Sunday, July 2 , 11am

Everyone is invited to join the congregations of the Pullman Universalist and the Gaines Congregational Churches as we remember our heritage. Featuring patriotic music and readings. Donations gladly accepted.

Sunday Painters Art Class-Sunday, July 23, 1-3pm

Medina artist Pat Greene and Museum Curator Bill Lattin have planned a one-day painting lesson where you will have the opportunity to be a "Sunday Painter" and walk away with your own masterpiece! Class cost TBD.

Story House with Children's Author Cynthia Cotten, Saturday, August 12, 11am

Join local author Cyndy Cotton who will share some of her experience and read from her stories about her stone house and life on the Erie Canal. Kids are free for this great family event.

School House Bell Dedication and Restored Akeley Fox celebration-Saturday, August 19 at 11 am

Join us on this special occasion to dedicate the restored Babbitt Bell and Akeley Fox. Free admission.

Orleans County Heritage Festival Activities at the Cobblestone Museum -September 9, 10 & 16, 17

Experience family fun on both weekends of the Festival, complete with a Cobblestone Scavenger Hunt and a hands-on cobblestone art project for kids. Remember our new admission policy: Kids are free with accompanying adults! See website for full details.

Cobblestone Country Quilt Show and local Artisan Craft Sale-Sunday, October 1

Shop for the holidays at this special event, which will feature quilts created by local quilters and crafts made by local artisans! Shop local! See website for regular admission.

Cobblestone Ghost Walk-Sunday, October 8, 1-5pm (Last Tour Begins at 4pm)

Be prepared to meet fascinating local characters of the past such as John Proctor (known as "Paul Revere of the Ridge") and famous abolitionist Horace Greeley, and others on this Ghost Walk! Tours every 20 minutes from the Cobblestone Church. \$10/person (Members \$7). Space is limited! Must pre-register by calling 585.589.9013 soon!

Holiday Sale in our Museum Store -November 3-5, 1-5pm

Start your Christmas shopping with Cobble the Museum Mouse at the Museum Store. Many great seasonal items will be in stock and ready for purchase. While shopping be sure to enjoy a complimentary Cobble Cookie!

Special thanks to our docents and volunteers who helped us throughout 2016. We truly could not have done it without you!

Matthew Ballard	Gerard Morrissey
Robert J. Bannan	Patricia Morrissey
Ilene Benfer	LeRoy Neeper
Jon Bernard	Joan Page
Jim Bonafini	Diane Palmer
Mary Anne Braunbach	Deborah Perkowski
Shirley Bright-Neeper	Christine Pittman
Rita Burrell	Jonathan Price
Jan Caleb	Brenda Radzinski
Al Capurso	Aliya Rayner
Eliya Cooper	Tom River
David Damico	Delia Robinson
Linda Dennis	Gina Schelemanow
Grace Denniston	Eileen Sorochty
Barbara Dunham	Sue Starkweather-Miller
Sheri Egeli	Casey Starkweather
Alan Gilbert	Georgia Thomas
Sandra Heise	Rebecca Walker
Shirley Helfer	Erica Wanecski
Gail Johnson	Raven White
Kathy Kast	Conner Wolfe
Gary Kent	Mary Zangerle
Grace Kent	
W.C. Lattin	
Paul Letiecq	
Andrea Maples	
Doug Miller	

Volunteers: The Lifeblood of Museum Operations

By Sue Bonafini, Volunteer Coordinator

I am looking forward to working alongside of volunteers throughout the 2017 season at the Cobblestone Museum. Some are joining the ranks for the first time, others are returning for another season, but all of us are preparing to do our part to create a pleasant and memorable experience for each visitor who comes through our doors.

We are fortunate to have approximately 40 individuals at this time who are willing to help. However, the recruiting process for new volunteers continues. There can never be *too many* volunteers on the roster. It's wonderful to have a long list of contacts when outreach begins to fill a volunteer role. It's sad if I learn that a dependable volunteer is unavailable for service because of illness, injury or another life circumstance, but this is a reality that I may face when I am filling weekly schedules.

I invite you to consider contacting me to learn more about volunteerism at the Museum, whether you or someone you know might be interested. Volunteers help to greet visitors, sort books, clear cobwebs, lead tours, water the gardens and SO MUCH MORE! Send email to volunteers@cobblestonemuseum.org or call the Museum office at (585) 589-9013.

*When former Trustee **Paul Archer** passed away in January, the Cobblestone Museum lost a dedicated volunteer. Active for his last season in 2015, he was a valued docent who always kept busy wherever help was needed during idle moments. He will be fondly remembered by all of us who knew him.*

Antiques Appraisal Fair

The Cobblestone Society held a very successful event in February at Tillman's. Many thanks to organizers Pat Morrissey and Bill Lattin.

- 55 guests attended
- 6 Volunteers assisted
- 120 items appraised
- \$707 raised to benefit the Museum



The Cobblestone Society Museum
PO Box 363
Albion, New York 14411

585.589.9013
www.cobblestonemuseum.org



The Cobblestoner

Renew Your Cobblestone Membership Today!



Please consider renewing your membership with The Cobblestone Society! All members receive a 10% discount in the gift shop, free admission to the museum, and access to *The Cobblestoner*. If you are currently a member and have moved or would like to receive information via e-mail, consider updating your contact information.

Name: _____

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- Individual - \$20.00 Family - \$30.00 Patron - \$100.00 Corporate - \$250.00
- I am a new member I am renewing I am a life member updating my information
- I would like to receive updates on museum events and programs via e-mail
- I would like to receive future copies of *The Cobblestoner* via e-mail
- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

Feel free to ask us if you have a question about your membership renewal. (585) 589.9013 or director@cobblestonemuseum.org